

Did you know?

Now Clients With Both Medicare and Medicaid Must Get Prescriptions from Medicare Prescription Drug Plans



Many Medicare/Medicaid clients are asking for help from local CSO and HCS workers because:

- They do not know which drug plan Medicare assigned them to and haven't been able to find out; or
- Medicare has not assigned them to a Medicare drug plan; or
- Medicare has not told the assigned plan that they are a dual eligible individual and should get the full drug subsidy with only co-payments.

- Medicare has fixed the system pharmacists use to verify client Medicare eligibility and drug plan assignment. Pharmacists may also call a special number for to get this information. Pharmacists may ask for the client's **Medicare card** (red, white and blue), **photo ID** and **Medical ID card**.
- Drug plans **must** accept the client's word that they are on Medicaid and Medicare (Dual Eligible). The drug plan and pharmacist can charge for **only** the drug co-payments (\$1-\$5).
- Drug plans **must** provide a 30-day transitional supply of the client's current prescription drugs, even if the drugs are not on the plan's formulary.
- Pharmacists can enroll duals without a drug plan into a national plan called WellPoint and **provide** the dual individual with their **prescriptions that same day**.
- **IMPORTANT! DSHS** can **not** pay client drug co-payments and can **not** pay for drugs covered under the new Medicare drug program.

Tell Clients to Ask the Pharmacist:

- To help them find out the name of the drug plan Medicare has assigned them to.
- To help them enroll in Medicare's emergency plan called "WellPoint" if they are not already enrolled in a plan.
- To notify their plan that they are a **dual eligible** individual, if the plan is requiring more than a prescription co-payment. Plans **must** accept the client's or pharmacist's declaration of dual eligibility.

If the pharmacist will not or cannot help the client, the client may need to try another pharmacist.

If none of the above is effective and the situation has become an emergency, tell the client to go to a hospital emergency room. Your supervisor may contact your HRSA Regional Representative if necessary.